



*Growing Business. Building Community.*

May 23, 2011

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65)**

Dear Commissioners:

The Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to growing business and building community. As the voice of business, we are charged with promoting and initiating responsible economic growth, and addressing community challenges in the Rogers and Lowell area, and the region.

Arkansas, and particularly Northwest Arkansas, has changed dramatically over the past decade. The growth in our area of the state has provided our residents with tremendous opportunities, but it also presents new challenges that must be met including infrastructure, education, workforce development, and community needs.

One area where Arkansas lags behind, compared to other states, is high-speed internet availability and adoption. While we've made great strides in the number of Arkansans who have high-speed internet access at home or at work, more than 30% of our state's citizens still aren't utilizing high-speed services. When you consider that Arkansas tops the national list of wireless-only households (at 35%), the need for expanded mobile broadband services becomes apparent.

The announced merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would significantly increase the availability of mobile broadband services in Arkansas, specifically by allowing the merged company to utilize combined spectrum resources to deploy LTE services to nearly every Arkansan. This dramatic expansion of mobile high-speed services will not only provide new opportunities for businesses to grow and innovate, but will also allow for cutting-edge technologies to be utilized in the education, workforce development, and healthcare sectors.

It is our view that deployment of high-speed internet services should be encouraged in all forms, including broadband, cable, and wireless, and that free-market propositions like the AT&T/T-Mobile merger, that have such significant benefits for our state, should be approved.

Sincerely,

Raymond Burns  
President and CEO

CC:  
Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell